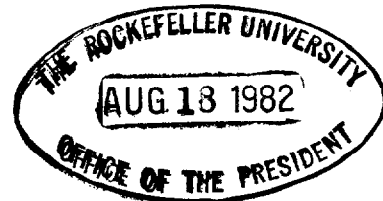


THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
ATHENS, GEORGIA 30602



DEPARTMENT OF  
MOLECULAR AND POPULATION  
GENETICS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING  
404-542-  
5469

August 12, 1982

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Office of the President  
Rockefeller University  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Josh:

Thank you for your note acknowledging receipt of the reprints I sent to you. With respect to your question regarding the status of transformation in *Neurospora*, I think it is clear that the experiments carried out by Mary Case are quite comparable in their results to those originally performed by Gerry Fink and his colleagues with yeast. We can now routinely transform *Neurospora* with high efficiency using hybrid plasmids and, in fact, we have just recently detected what we think is an autonomously replicating vehicle -- something we have been looking for for some time -- which we hope will provide a shuttle vector and make transformation even more feasible between *Neurospora* and *E. coli*.

With respect to the Mishra-Tatum original claims, I must say I did not find them convincing at the time; however, Mishra's recent experiment using an inositol temperature-sensitive mutant (an experiment which Mary and I suggested he do) appears to be more convincing, as do the more recent experiments of Szabo. In addition, Mary has evidence that she can get a low rate of transformation in our qa system using total *Neurospora* DNA instead of hybrid plasmid DNA.

One of these days when I am in New York City again, I hope I'll have a chance to drop by and visit with you, at least briefly. Doris and I enjoyed our recent visit to Yale, in June, on the occasion of the meeting of the Genetics Society of America. Things have changed on the campus a great deal since the 1940's but a good deal of the Osborn Memorial Laboratories look much the same as they did in the "good old days."

I hope you are continuing to enjoy your responsibilities at Rockefeller. Certainly, from all I hear, things seem to be progressing very well indeed since you moved there. With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Norman".

Norman H. Giles  
Callaway Professor of Genetics

NHG:rcw

*2L - orig. retained in office*